

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 21ST MAY 2015 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: D Baker; M Brandon; C Briton; C Cox; A Gibson; N Kennedy;
J Ludovino; R MacKenzie; J North; J Osman; C Price; T Robbins; H Siggs;
D Unwin; G Wilson; C Wride

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White
RFO: S Luck; Mace-Bearers: J Rood; M Goody
Chaplain: Preb. A Wheeler
6 members of the public; No members of the press

15/53C ELECTION OF MAYOR

Cllr Briton called for nominations. Cllr Kennedy nominated Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Unwin. A vote was taken and Cllr Wilson was unanimously elected as Mayor.

There was a brief adjournment while the new Mayor received the chain of office; the meeting was re-convened.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Briton for his year in office; he thanked all the Councillors for their support and welcomed the new Councillors. Cllr Wilson then signed his declaration of acceptance of the office of Mayor.

15/54C ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor called for nominations. Cllr North nominated Cllr Gibson, seconded by Cllr Siggs. A vote was taken and Cllr Gibson was unanimously elected as Deputy Mayor. Cllr Gibson took her seat, she thanked all members for their support and said she would endeavour to do her best for the Mayor, the City and the Council.

15/55C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- i. To receive any apologies for absence: None received.
- ii. To make arrangements for completion of Councillors' Acceptance of Office: the Town Clerk reported that all declarations had now been completed.

15/56C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 27th July 2012: None declared.

15/57C MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 23RD APRIL

2015 (attached) to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor: Proposed, seconded, approved and signed.

15/58C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2015 (attached)
Cllr Kennedy presented the minutes and invited questions. Ref. 15/81P iii. the matter will be considered when the new Council has had some time to settle in.

15/59C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Public speaking time is normally restricted to 15 minutes in total, at the discretion of the Mayor.

Mr MacKay spoke about Tourist Information services.

The Mayor thanked him for his comments and said that the matter would be discussed by the Council later in the meeting. See 15/63C.

15/60C TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

- i. Finance and General Purposes Committee
- ii. Planning Committee
- iii. City Centre and Open Spaces Committee
- iv. Archives and Civic Assets Committee
- v. Staffing Committee

It was proposed, seconded and agreed, that a paper ballot would be taken where the number of members wishing to stand on any committee exceeded the number required; ballots were taken at i. and iii. See attached list of committees appointed.

It was agreed to appoint Councillors to sub-committees:

- i. Wells in Bloom
- ii. City and Tourism Forum

Later in the meeting it was agreed to form the Wells Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and appoint four members; see 15/62C iii. See attached list of all committee appointments.

15/61C TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS AND OTHER PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- i. To resolve that the Finance and General Purposes Committee shall review for presentation to Council:
 - Standing Orders
 - Financial Regulations
 - Committees' terms of reference and related matters
 - Ensure that all annual reviews required under Standing Order 5j are completed.Proposed, seconded and RESOLVED.
- ii. To note the Council's calendar of meetings and engagements for 2015: NOTED.

15/62C TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES

See attached list of representatives appointed.

Trustees:

- i. Clarification will be sought from the Wells Almshouses regarding the position for Cllr Wilson being the Mayor this year; Cllr Briton was appointed to fill the vacancy, with Cllr Cox in reserve if a second person is required.
- ii. Cllr North reported the new Recreation Ground Trust will have ten members, including two from Wells City Council; the invitation to appoint these will not be made until the autumn as there is governance to take place. It does not mean automatic entitlement for the City Council to be represented on the 'shadow board'.
- iii. -It was proposed, seconded and agreed, that the Council would appoint a Wells Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
-Cllrs Briton, Ludovino, Osman and Wilson (The Mayor), were appointed as members.
-An item has been placed on the agenda of the Planning Committee meeting to be held on 28th May:
'NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
To consider the progress of the Wells Neighbourhood Plan'.
-The question 'where are the other members of the steering group to come from?' was referred to the Planning Committee.
-There was a short discussion of the neighbourhood plan process.
-Council requested that all Councillors be provided with an analysis of the response to the consultation on the draft plan. The Mayor said that this matter would be looked into.

15/63C MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CITY MEETING

To note the draft minutes of the Annual City Meeting held on Tuesday 24th March 2015 (attached) and consider any matters arising for the attention of the City Council

Cllrs Robbins and North stated that the City Council did not evict the TIC from the Town Hall; the company was wound up and it closed.

Councillors gave their views on some future options.

(Cllr North left the meeting)

Cllr Osman (as Mendip District and Somerset County Councillor) reviewed the business situation regarding Mendip TICs. He urged the necessity for a clear, viable forward plan. MDC and SCC are keen to work in partnership with such plans to achieve sustainable services for the future.

Members gave further views. It was agreed that the City Council could take a role by convening the City and Tourism Forum and inviting key partners to meet and discuss the way forward.

In summary the Mayor identified three main factors for discussing the future of visitor information services in Wells:

- Location
- Use of technology
- A viable plan

15/64C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

- i. Council noted with disappointment, the absence of the local press at this annual meeting and the Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
- ii. The Town Clerk drew members' attention to dates of training sessions.
- iii. The Town Clerk reminded members to complete and return their Register of Interests.
- iv. The Mayor announced that 'Mayor Making' will be at 6pm on Saturday 27th June.

15/65C DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will take place at 7pm on **Thursday 25th June 2015**